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3) Japan, U.S. to launch coordination on possible Futenma relocation sites early next month

A senior government official revealed yesterday that Japan and the United States will, in effect, launch coordination on where to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station in Okinawa, with the Defense Ministry/Self-Defense Forces inaugurating a study with U.S. military staff officers in early March.

Prior to coordination between Japan and the United States, the government is scheduled to receive a list of candidate sites from the ruling camp at a meeting of the Okinawa base issues examination committee of the government and the ruling parties to be held shortly.

4) Kamei on base issue: A considerable number of Japanese people are out of their minds

ASAHI (Page 4) (Full)  
February 24, 2010

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Referring to the fact that there are no moves in prefectures other than Okinawa to host U.S. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma (in Ginowan City, Okinawa Prefecture), Shizuka Kamei, state minister for financial affairs and postal reform, said yesterday at a press conference: "A considerable number of the Japanese people are out of their minds. Although they want to impose the burden on others, they don't want to accept it themselves." He appears to have been criticizing the public because he wanted to underscore his view that there is no other choice but to relocate the Futenma base within Okinawa.

The People's New Party (PNP), which is headed by Kamei, is now looking into the possibility of moving the Futenma base to the inland area of Camp Schwab (in Nago City, Okinawa). Kamei said, "Relocating the base out of Okinawa or out of Japan would obviously be best, but there is no place that is willing to host Futenma." He then said that relocating the Futenma base within Okinawa "is not the best choice but a better one."

However, there is a gap between the PNP and the Social Democratic Party (SDP), which insists that Futenma be relocated out of the prefecture or out of Japan. Kamei also stated: "Since there is a danger that discord will make it difficult to reach a conclusion, it would be better not to make a decision at present."

5) SDP strongly opposed to Futenma relocation within Okinawa Prefecture

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Abridged)  
February 24, 2010

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), part of the tripartite ruling coalition led by the Democratic Party of Japan, is strongly opposing the idea of relocating the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station from its current location in Okinawa Prefecture to another site in the island prefecture.

On this issue, the People's New Party (PNP), also a constituent of the three-party ruling coalition, has worked out a set of two plans for Futenma relocation within Okinawa Prefecture: 1) building a land-based replacement facility on the premises of the U.S. Marine Corps' Camp Schwab (located in the prefecture's northern coastal city of Nago and other municipalities); and 2) merging the heliport functions of Futenma airfield with the U.S. Kadena Air Base. In addition, Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirofumi Hirano met with Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima on Feb. 20. In that meeting, Nakaima maintained that relocating the Futenma airfield facility outside Okinawa Prefecture is the "best" option. Hirano, however, said there might be a "better" option, showing understanding for Futenma relocation within the prefecture.

Kantoku Teruya, chairman of the SDP's Diet affairs committee, met yesterday in the Diet with Mikio Shimoji, chief of the PNP's policy board. Teruya told Shimoji that it would be better for the PNP not to present its plans for Futenma relocation within Okinawa Prefecture to a joint review committee of the government and the

ruling parties. However, Shimoji did not respond.

In addition, Consumer Affairs Minister Fukushima, who heads the SDP, met the press yesterday and criticized Hirano's remark, saying: "He should do his best, not better. I've yet to hear that the government has fully discussed the option of relocating Futenma airfield

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outside Japan or outside Okinawa." Hirano, however, stressed in a press conference yesterday evening that the government is now in the process of looking into all possible options from scratch, saying: "The review committee and the government do not base our discussions on the option of building a land-based facility (within an inland area of Camp Schwab)."

6) MOFA experts' panel confirms two Japan-U.S. secret agreements on Korean contingencies, redeployment of nuclear arms in Okinawa

NIKKEI (Top play) (Full)  
February 24, 2010

The contents of the draft of the report to be published by the experts' committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), which is tasked with investigating the alleged secret diplomatic agreements signed between Japan and the U.S., including those signed at the time of the revision of the bilateral security treaty in 1960, were revealed on Feb. 23. The panel was able to confirm the existence of the secret agreements on the free use of U.S. military bases in Japan in a contingency on the Korean peninsula and on the redeployment of nuclear weapons in Okinawa. The report points out that no agreement was reached on the controversial secret accord on U.S. vessels' introduction of nuclear arms at the time of the security treaty's revision, with the two sides adopting different interpretations of this matter. This will be the first time that the truth about the secret agreements, whose existence the government has consistently denied, will be revealed.

With the experts' panel confirming the existence of two secret agreements, the Hatoyama administration will revise the government's position under the Liberal Democratic Party administrations. In which case, it will have to make a decision on whether these two secret agreements should be regarded as void and should be abrogated. The government will coordinate with the U.S. side in advance before making a decision.

The experts' panel has been investigating four secret agreements signed at the time of the security treaty revision in 1960 and around the time of Okinawa's reversion to Japanese administration in 1972. One agreement that has been confirmed is the one signed in 1960 authorizing the U.S. forces to use U.S. military bases in Japan freely, without prior consultations with Japan, in a contingency on the Korean peninsula. Under normal circumstances, the U.S. forces would have had to consult with Japan in advance if combat operations were to be launched from Japan. The secret agreement treated this case as an exception.

Another secret agreement that has been confirmed was about the redeployment of nuclear weapons in Okinawa in a contingency after consultations between the two countries. This was signed before Okinawa's reversion (in 1972). The family of former Prime Minister Eisaku Sato has kept the original copy of the secret agreement signed by Sato and President Richard Nixon, and the experts' panel has concluded that the document is authentic.

The issue now will be what to do with these two secret agreements. Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama has stated that he intends to uphold the three non-nuclear principles of "not possessing, producing, or introducing nuclear weapons." Since the agreement on the redeployment of nuclear arms in Okinawa contradicts these three principles, it is likely that the agreement's validity will no

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longer be recognized.

On the other hand, with regard to the "secret nuclear agreement" of 1960, which has been the focus in the secret agreement issue, the panel is expected to conclude that Japan and the U.S. did not reach a clear agreement in 1960.

This "secret agreement" was about not regarding calls on Japanese ports and passage through Japanese territorial waters by U.S. vessels with nuclear arms on board as introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan and allowing such port calls and passage. According to the experts' panel's investigations, while records of Japan-U.S. consultations were found, no document attesting to the actual signing of the secret agreement was found. However, the panel reckons that it is highly possible that the Japanese side has acquiesced in the port calls and crossings, accepting the U.S. interpretation, since the 1970s.

No relevant documents were found on the secret agreement on the government's paying for the cost of restoring (military base land) to its original state and other expenses at the time of Okinawa's reversion, which should have been borne by the United States. No definitive documents have been found on the U.S. side either, so the panel is expected to conclude that it will be difficult to prove its existence.

Four secret agreements investigated by the experts' committee

#### Agreement Contents Verdict

Secret agreement on port calls, passage of U.S. ships with nuclear arms on board (1960) Ports calls and passage not considered introduction of nuclear arms, to be allowed without prior consultations No agreement was reached between Japan and the U.S. on this secret accord in 1960

Secret agreement on the free use of bases in a contingency on the Korean peninsula (1960) Prior consultations not required for combat operations of U.S. forces in Japan in a contingency on the Korean peninsula Secret agreement exists

Secret agreement on redeployment of nuclear arms after Okinawa's reversion (1969) Redeployment of nuclear arms in Okinawa in a contingency after prior consultations Secret agreement exists

Secret agreement on paying cost of Okinawa's reversion on the U.S.'s behalf (1971) Japan's payment of expenses such as cost of restoring (military base land) to original state on the U.S.'s behalf Relevant documents not found

7) Commentary: Investigation to be concluded without clarifying crucial secret agreement on introduction of nuclear arms into Japan

NIKKEI (Page 2) (Full)  
February 24, 2010

The draft report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs experts' committee only confirms the existence of two secret agreements, on a contingency on the Korean peninsula and on the redeployment of nuclear arms in Okinawa, out of the four secret accords being investigated. Since no clear evidence was found on the "secret agreement" on the introduction of nuclear weapons, it is likely that the investigation will be concluded without clarifying the truth about the introduction of nuclear arms by U.S. vessels.

The government will convey the contents of the report to the U.S.

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government shortly. The crucial secret agreement in the panel's investigations is the secret agreement on Japan's acquiescing in port calls and passage through Japanese territorial waters by ships with nuclear weapons on board allegedly signed at the time of the revision of the Japan-U.S. security treaty in 1960. This is because such an agreement runs counter to Japan's three non-nuclear principles.

The U.S. side has published several diplomatic documents attesting to the existence of the agreement, and the opposition parties have pursued this issue repeatedly in the Diet. However, the report will conclude that at least in 1960, the Japanese side had not concluded a secret agreement allowing port calls and passage of ships carrying nuclear arms.

On the other hand, according to documents on the U.S. side, there were indications that the U.S. government was able to obtain Japan's consent on such port calls and passages. It appears that there was a serious gap in understanding between the two countries on the existence of the secret agreement.

Subsequently, despite its awareness of this difference in interpretation, the Japanese government has stated repeatedly in the Diet that ports calls and passage of (ships carrying) nuclear weapons are not allowed. While it seems that there is a desire to treat this as a "problem of the past," since ship-based nuclear arms that were likely to come to Japan were removed in the early 1990s, this issue may give rise to disputes in the future owing to the possibility of the redeployment of nuclear weapons.

8) Relocation of U.S. Marine Corps to Guam: Japan to shoulder relocation costs for families residing in U.S.

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Top play) (Full)  
February 24, 2010

It has been learned that the cost of the construction of housing for the families of U.S. Marines to be shouldered by Japan include the cost of the transfer of their families from the U.S. mainland. Japan will construct 3,500 housing units at the cost of 2.55 billion dollars (roughly 232 billion yen).

The Defense Ministry has been shouldering the cost needed for the realignment of the U.S. military presence in Japan as a relocation cost. However, this is the first case in which the ministry shoulders the cost of relocation abroad. It is unprecedented for Japan to shoulder the cost of the relocation of Marines within the U.S. (from the U.S. mainland to Guam).

The agreement on the U.S. Forces Japan realignment notes that 8,000 Marines and their 9,000 family members are to be relocated from Okinawa to Guam as a measure to reduce the burden on Okinawa. However, according to a survey conducted by Okinawa Prefecture in September 2008, the actual number of Marines assigned to Okinawa is 12,402. Their family members number 7,596. If 8,000 Marines are relocated to Guam, the remaining number is about 4,000, which would cause concern about their deterrence capability. The number of their family members would be less than zero. As such, the specifics of the agreement have been called into question.

Until now, the government just explained that the number of Marines to be relocated is not an actual number, and the number of family

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members is a rough figure, as then Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone noted at the Lower House Budget Committee meeting on Feb. 26, 2009.

Regarding families who will be transferred from the U.S. mainland to Guam, a senior Defense Ministry official replied to a query from this newspaper: "Okinawa is overseas for the U.S. As such, some Marines are assigned unaccompanied by family. However, since Guam is a U.S. territory, they will basically be assigned accompanied by family. We will charge rent." This official explained that providing housing to families who will be transferred from the U.S. is an expenditure occurred as a result of the U.S. Marines' relocation to Guam. This official also said that at the moment, the ministry does not know the number of families to be transferred from the U.S. mainland.

9) Reduction in burden on Okinawa becoming uncertain

TOKYO SHIMBUN (Page 3) (Full)  
February 24, 2010

(Commentary)

It is becoming uncertain whether the burden on Okinawa will actually be reduced as per the aim of the overall plan for the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. It has been learned that family members from

the U.S. mainland are included among the 9,000 family members of Marines to be transferred to Guam. If that is so, "transfer from Okinawa" that was specified in the written agreement cannot be taken literally.

On the assumption that 8,000 Marines in Okinawa and their 9,000 dependents will move to Guam in accordance with an agreement between Japan and the U.S., the two sides decided to build 3,500 houses. But the Japanese government has no grasp of how many military personnel and their families will actually move to Guam.

Japan has agreed with the U.S. to bear 6.090 million dollars (approximately 554 billion yen) of the total cost of relocating Marines to Guam. Last February, Japan signed an accord with the U.S. to pay 2.8 billion dollars (approximately 255 billion yen) in costs for constructing the headquarters office building and barracks for non-married personnel. Based on the accord, Japan will disburse 34.6 billion yen for fiscal 2009 and 46.8 billion yen for fiscal 2010.

Although the amounts to be paid to the U.S. as construction costs have been decided even in single digits, it remains uncertain whether barracks and houses will be constructed based on the fixed number or the real number of those who will move in.

A senior Defense Ministry official indicated that the number of houses to be constructed might be reduced, saying: "Houses will be built for those who will move in, so houses for which there are no occupants will not be constructed."

His remark means that the number of Marines scheduled to move to Guam will be smaller than planned. Now that a plan to relocate the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station within the prefecture is emerging in the government, achieving the goal of reducing the burden on Okinawa is becoming more and more uncertain.

(Shigeru Handa, editorial board member)

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#### 10) Japan to accept Tomahawk retirement

ASAHI (Page 3) (Abridged)  
February 24, 2010

The U.S. government will likely indicate its intention in a "Nuclear Posture Review" report, which will be worked out in March, to scrap the Tomahawk, a cruise missile that can be armed with a nuclear warhead. This is because possession of the Tomahawk, described as "a relic of the Cold War," is now less significant. In Japan, which is under the U.S. nuclear umbrella, there were calls for the continued deployment of the Tomahawk. However, the Hatoyama cabinet will accept its retirement.

The Japanese government, with the change of administration from the Liberal Democratic Party to the Democratic Party of Japan, has moved in the direction of accepting the Tomahawk's retirement. Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada, meeting the press yesterday, stressed that Japan is not in a position to say anything specific about whether or not they (the U.S.) should stop deploying the missile. Late last year, Okada sent a letter to U.S. officials, including Secretary of State Clinton, to convey this view direct to them.

Some Japanese government officials take for granted the U.S. decision to retire the Tomahawk missile. One official remarked that it is only natural to scrap outdated weapons. "The continued deployment of the Tomahawk had a symbolic meaning," said Keiichi Nogi, a commentator on military affairs. "Even after the missile is gone," Nogi added, "there will be no change in U.S. strategy." Another expert noted: "It looks like most Tomahawks are unserviceable."

However, scrapping the Tomahawk means will reduce nuclear options. In his letter Okada asked U.S. officials to explain how the Tomahawk retirement will affect the United States' extended deterrence (nuclear umbrella) for Japan and how the United States will compensate for its scrapping.

One Japanese government official said: "The United States probably means to say there's no need for concern (about the U.S. nuclear umbrella) since they still have many options, including submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM)." This can be interpreted to mean that the remaining nuclear arsenal is sufficient for deterrence.

The U.S. government's possible plan to scrap the Tomahawk will likely have repercussions in the Diet debate on Japan's three nonnuclear principles following the Japanese government's announcement next month of the results of the investigation into secret pacts on introduction of nukes. This is because U.S. Navy ships carrying nuclear weapons would be less likely to call at Japanese ports or transit Japanese waters in view of the fact that the third principle bars the introduction of such weapons into Japan. However, some have pointed out that aircraft (carrying nuclear weapons) might fly to Japan or SLBM-carrying submarines might pass through Japan's territorial waters.

11) Okada unveils plan for Japan to host an international conference on nuclear disarmament later this year

MAINICHI (Page 2) (Full)

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February 24, 2010

Takenori Noguchi

Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada announced in a press conference yesterday Japan's intention to host an international conference on nuclear disarmament in the second half of this year. International conferences on nuclear disarmament, including the Nuclear Security Summit, are scheduled to take place in the first half of this year. Japan wants to give a boost to the nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation trend as the only country to have suffered atomic bombing. If realized, this will be the first international nuclear disarmament conference hosted by Japan.

With respect to the Nuclear Security Summit in April and the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May, Okada emphatically said: "It is necessary for major powers and concerned countries to gather together to make efforts toward a world free of nuclear weapons even after achieving results (at those conferences)." However, regarding the possible host and participants for the envisaged international conference, he merely said they are "under consideration."

Last April, (then) Foreign Minister Hirofumi Nakasone announced that Japan would host an international nuclear disarmament conference in February 2010. (Then) Prime Minister Taro Aso expressed his willingness to make arrangements for hosting the event either in Hiroshima or Nagasaki. The plan has been in limbo since the change of administration.

12) Government draft revision of Northern Territories basic policy places importance on enlightening the younger generation in order to resolve the issue

YOMIURI (Page 4) (Full)

February 24, 2010

The government yesterday presented a plan to amend the basic policy for quickly resolving the dispute over the Russia-held islands off Hokkaido, the so-called issue of the Northern Territories, to the ruling parties at a policy meeting of the Cabinet Office. Taking the aging of former islanders into account, the government plan includes wording such as "a strong will to have the territories returned should be shared by many Japanese people, including the younger generation," revealing the government policy of placing importance on enlightening the younger generation. A decision on the plan will be made in April.

13) LDP continues to boycott Diet session

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the largest opposition party, continued to boycott Diet sessions yesterday. In the LDP, however, some members, out of fear that the party might fall into oblivion, have begun to look into proposing a motion calling for changing the government's budget in a move to search for an opportunity to return to Diet deliberations.

The LDP boycotted a House of Representatives Budget Committee meeting in the morning and a Lower House plenary session in the

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afternoon, in which a briefing was presented and questions were asked about the child-allowance measure. As the condition for its return to deliberations, the LDP has insisted that the ruling camp respond to its call for summoning before the Diet those involved in politics and money scandals, including former secretaries to Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and Democratic Party of Japan Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa.

14) Toyota denies problems with electronic throttle control system

ASAHI (Top play) (Lead para.)  
February 24, 2010

Public hearings on Toyota Motors' large-scale recalls of its vehicles for free repairs started in the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress on the morning of Feb. 23. Jim Lentz, president of the U.S. sales unit of Toyota Motors, released the information that he will present in his testimony at a congressional hearing in advance. He admitted to a delay in conducting recalls of his company's vehicles and apologized for the mistake. However, concerning the electronic throttle control system suspected of having caused the sudden acceleration of Toyota vehicles, which is the major focus of attention, he said, "I am confident that there are no problems with it."

15) APEC senior working-level talks end: Interests conflicting over intra-regional economic integration

NIKKEI (Page 5) (Full)  
February 24, 2010

The senior working-level talks hosted by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum ended on Feb. 23. With interests of member nations and areas conflicting on the envisaged intra-regional economic integration, the main agenda item for this year's APEC meeting, host nation Japan was forced to coordinate discussions in a blind way. Since a major goal of APEC is to create a free trade zone covering the entire region, the government will without doubt be pressed to steer a difficult course in the run-up to the November summit.

Japan posits paving the way for the Free Trade Area in the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) initiative, which covers the entire region, as this year's key challenge. It included in its basic guidelines for the domestic growth strategy, mapped out late last year, a deadline for achieving the initiative, noting that FTAAP should be created with 2020 as the goal year. However, it did not refer to the goal year at the meeting. A participant who represented Japan revealed that consideration was given to the sense of alarm some countries harbor with regard to the FTAAP.

There are free trade zone initiatives in the region. Member nations are examining the advantages and disadvantages of these initiatives as they search for a framework in which they should participate. Against the background of a struggle for leadership of APEC, Japan's capabilities will be put to the test as it seeks to have members cooperate.

16) Japan extended total of 11.5 billion yen in ODA for solar energy generation

NIKKEI (Page 4) (Full)

February 24, 2010

The Japanese government is supporting photovoltaic generation in developing countries in Asia, Africa, and other regions by providing grant aid through its official development assistance (ODA) program. To date, Japan has extended a total of 11.5 billion yen in aid to 18 countries/regions. Japan's assistance is intended to support developing countries' efforts to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to help Japanese companies make inroads into foreign markets by introducing renewable energies.

It is part of the "Hatoyama initiative," which was announced by Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama with the aim of assisting developing countries' efforts to combat global warming. In December, Djibouti became the first country to receive such aid from Japan. Morocco and other countries have followed Djibouti.

17) Japan regards IWC chairman's proposal as worth considering

NIKKEI (Page 4) (Full)  
February 24, 2010

Hidemitsu Kibe, London

International Whaling Commission Chairman Cristian Maquieira put together a proposal allowing Japan under IWC direction to hunt some whales in the Southern Hemisphere and coastal waters. The chairman's proposal is aimed at searching for ways to resolve the whaling issue through discussions without specifying a limit to the number of whales that can be hunted. Although the Japanese government regards the proposal as worth considering, antiwhaling organizations are reacting strongly to it.

In connection with Japan's whaling in the Southern Hemisphere, the Australian government has announced that If Japan does not agree to gradually discontinue its whaling, Australia will bring the case to the International Court of Justice. The problem has become serious due to the ongoing harassment of a Japanese whaling vessel by a certain antiwhaling group.

The IWC has been unable to conduct substantial discussions on the issue because of deepening discord between pro- and anti-whaling groups. As a result, Maquieira has proposed a plan that will allow Japan to hunt in the Southern Hemisphere and coastal waters by substantially reducing the number of whales hunted, in return for Japan suspending its current research whaling for ten years.

However, Greenpeace is criticizing the proposal as dangerous backpedaling toward the 20th century in which whales were driven to the verge of extinction.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government intends to come up with a new proposal with an eye on the June IWC annual meeting. There is a plan being floated in the government in which commercial whaling in Japanese coastal waters would be resumed in place of research whaling.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Minister Hirotaka Akamatsu avoided commenting at a press conference yesterday, noting, "Since there are various views, we can't put our cards on the table."

Akamatsu also said, "We are making preparations while looking into

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the possibility of 60 to 70 percent of our assertions being accepted," indicating that Japan is willing to make concessions in reviewing its research whaling based on its negotiations with other countries.

ROOS